Madison University June 6th 1846

Dear Brethren,

Yours of March 13th has remained unanswered until this late day on account of multiplied duties and change of circumstances always attendant upon the close of one term and the commencement of another. Knowing that you as Students are prepared to appreciate the peculiar circumstances of the scholar's life, we venture to cherish the hope of a ready exculpation from all blame.— When for a moment we turn our attention from the dusty text-books, which demand the greater portion of our time and effort, and from the quiet retreat of our own loved Institution, take a hasty survey of the busy scenes in which our brethren of the human race are acting; And when we observe in almost every exhibition of human nature little else than an additional evidence of the corruption of our race; When too we are compelled to witness the dissentions and divisions which are weakening the efforts of the professedly good, we are ready for the moment to welcome the feelings of discouragement and despondency which are urging themselves upon us, and forget our confidence in the abounding benevolence of Him who is the Author of the world and of the Christian's hope. But when again we consider more carefully the past and present condition of our race we think we are able to trace, even in the darkest passages of its history, evidences of an omniscient agency and omnipotent design which shall cause all things to result in the glory of the great Eternal. With this evidence before us we are prepared to bear up against the earnest opposition, to commence again, with renewed energy, the duties which our relations impose, and employ the language of encouragement and hope with those who clad in the Christian Armory, are engaged with us on this wide-spread battle-field— Brethren, what think you of the prospects of our land & nation, political and religious? Do the signs of the times bespeak for us and for those who shall come after us a long and undisturbed enjoyment of our secular and sacred institutions? Can we not hear in the rising cry of war upon our distant borders, in the muttered blasphemy of the "Man of Sin" in our midst and in the cry of "Peace, peace" uttered by many cold-hearted christians at ease in their possessions, a solemn warning, not to be mistaken by those who would be timely wise? Ah! Brethren, we feel assured that there are among you *many* kindred spirits, who with us are already beginning to feel the vast responsibilities which our age is about to roll upon us. *Soon* we who now are permitted ~~[illegible]~~ calmly to survey ~~the~~ from our quiet retreats, the field of toil, must be prominent sharers in its stern realities. Tis with peculiar pleasure we remember you, tho' personally unknown to us, as those who are to be our cotemporaries in the execution of the great commission: "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature". Whatever may be the fields that we shall be appointed to occupy, our common interests, hopes and labors must serve as strong and lasting ties to unite us in one Christian fraternity. And while we remain at our respective Institutions, laboring from day to day for the development and strengthening of those immortal energies, with which our Father has endowed us, it is our prayer for you, dear brethren as well as for ourselves, that we may cultivate first, as most important a deep-toned piety of heart which will lead to entire self consecration and enable us to trust for all our future success in the power of the cross reared on Calvary.—

The Students of our Institution have all, or nearly all, returned again after a few weeks vacation with healths evidently improved, and with hearts still glowing with that fervency of christian love which was lit up by the visitation of the Holy Spirit at the close of last term. The number of our Students remains about the same that it has been for a year or two past, about 180. We are inclined to regard the present prospects of our Inst as more favorable than they have been for years. The commencement of the present year seemed rather dark. The state of Religion was very low among us. Two of the most prominent members of the Faculty were regarded as lying at the point of death and the Board were looking with anxiety and dark forebodings, upon their finances and many immaginary & real dangers were thot to threaten our prosperity. But instead of experiencing a continued declension in piety, the loss of Professors, embarassment of the Board &c, our fortunes has been happily and unexpectedly reversed. And the greatest blessing that we have to mention is the long-to-be-remembered Revival at the close of last term. Of this you have doubtless recieved abundant information. All are agreed in regarding it the clearest exhibition of the power of the Spirit, and the most solemn, heart-searching scene that they have ever witnessed. We cherish the hope that its influence will be long and clearly traceable in the religious character of our Seminary—

The Subject of Missions is receiving, we think, more and and more attention from ~~our~~ students here. The frequent visits of Missionaries have served greatly to increase the Spirit of Missions which has ever characterized our Institution - There are now two under appointment of the Board. One is about to leave for Arracan, the other is expected soon to go to China, tho' perhaps he will be prevented from going this year. There are a large number who are looking to the far off ~~fields~~ lands of heathenism, as the field of their future labor and some seem almost impatient for the time of preparation to be gone, that they may respond to the so oft repeated cry, "Come over and help us". - Some are leaving us almost every year for the Valley of the West And we are often cheered with news of the success of most of our brethren who have lately gone out from this sacred spot to dispense the blessings of the gospel far and wide over our land. Let us hear from you often, give us all the news regarding your Seminary and of that portion of Zion with which you are more immediately connected.

Yours in Christian Friendship
In behalf of Soc. Inq-
L. M. Osborn
Cor. Sec

Soc of Inquiry,
Princeton Theo. Sem -